

From: Jeff Hill
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/18/02 5:12pm
Subject: Microsoft has harmed businesses and consumers.

To: Department of Justice

I am disappointed with the proposed Microsoft settlement. I don't see it changing anything that will help stop the problems that Microsoft causes.

The case didn't bring up many of the underhanded things Microsoft does. Microsoft and SGI signed an agreement to port a version of OpenGL to windows. SGI committed the people and money to the project, but Microsoft only gave partial support. We spent the next nine months hearing how the SGI programmers were overloaded while the Microsoft programmers were not holding up their end of the deal. After a year Microsoft dropped the contract and OpenGL support from windows and released a new DirectX. This hurt not only SGI, since they were left without resources to improve OpenGL on their own machines, but SGI customers like us. We suffered as SGI was duped into devoting resources.

Even personally I have been hurt by Microsoft's monopoly. In 1994 I bought a Gateway computer with Office Pro. The OEM price was \$229. They were underpricing both Lotus Smart Suite and Wordperfect Suite. There was competition then. In 1998 Office Pro '97 upgrade was \$329, while Wordperfect Office 7 was \$189. The last package I bought in 2001 was Office Pro 2000 upgrade is now \$399 while Wordperfect Office 9 is \$229. Where is the competition now? Microsoft low-balled the prices when they didn't own the market. Now they have 90% market share and their prices have gone up as they've captured the entire market.

How is the settlement going to restore competition in the office market? How can any OS vendor compete with Microsoft when Microsoft won't allow OEMs to install dual-boot with other OSes?

It seems the only way to compete with Microsoft is to give away the software like with Sun Office and hope that enough people are sick of supporting Microsoft. Unfortunately this won't work where I work since the Sun Office isn't on the government buy list.

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Just a Lockheed Martin Computer Geek